

What is the Long Range Impact of Frogtown Farm?



- A recognized need is met: Saint Paul’s Parks and Recreation Vision Plan speaks to the need for a new park in Frogtown, and to the increasing importance of promoting of healthy living, which includes physical exercise. Frogtown Farm’s emphasis on healthful foods, along with physical activity, would play a part in preventing obesity, heart disease and other ailments.
- Environmental sustainability: Existing vegetation will be preserved and enhanced, providing a habitat patch for songbirds, raptors and other wildlife. Soil will be stabilized and restored to fertility.
- Return on investment: The city gains a park in an area already identified as needing one. The county gains a potential site for composting. The park will help attract investors to the Minnehaha Mall site.
- Low future costs: The park need not require major dedicated funding, since there are currently no buildings on the site to maintain.
- Utilizing available resources: Funding to acquire the land is available from state, county and city sources; political support will come from the neighborhood and from interested individuals throughout the city.
- Historical significance: Since the early 1800s, the site has been the location of programs for public good, beginning with a religious home for children in need.



Preliminary Planning Budget

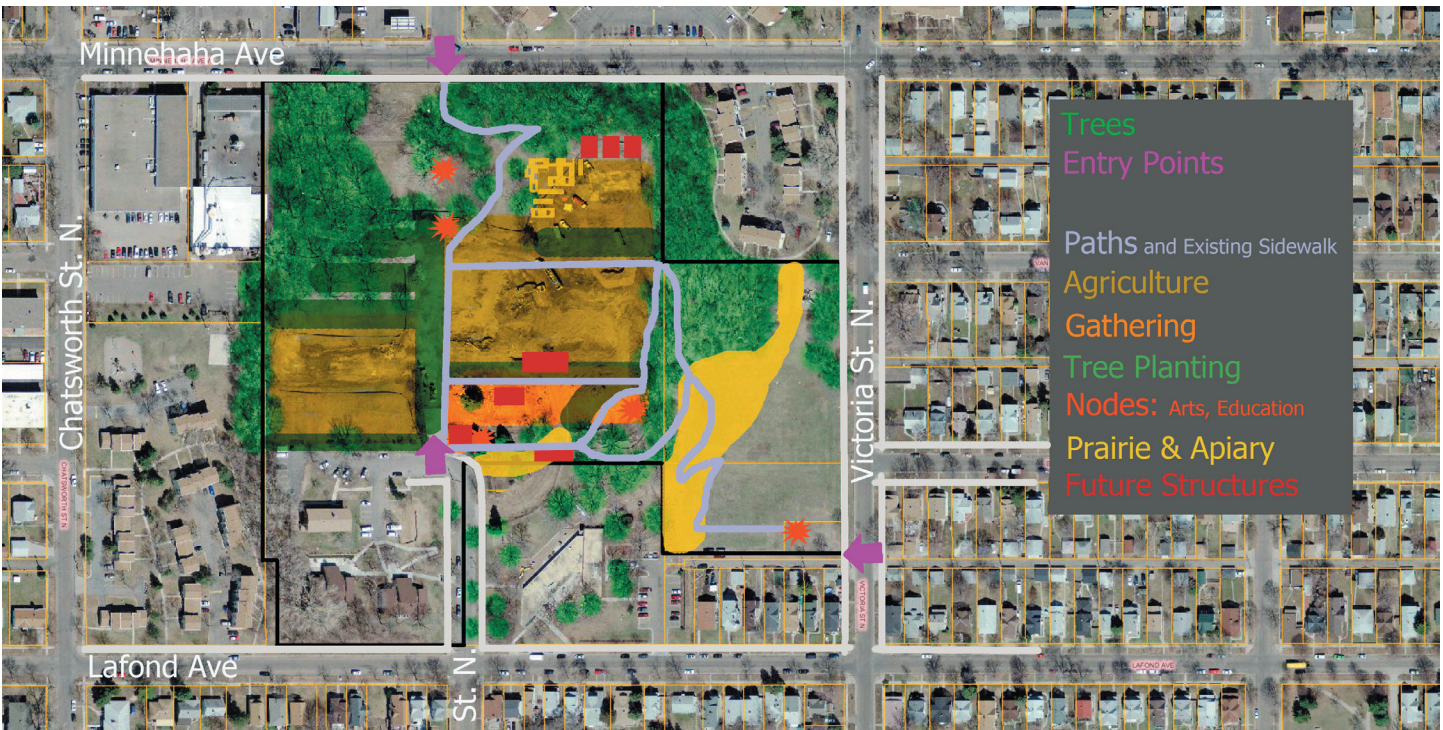
Task	Cost	CIB funds
Project coordination	45,000	40,000
Develop organizational structure	5,000	5,000
Conceptual design	8,000	8,000
Due diligence review	15,000	15,000
Environmental assessment	3,500	3,500
Land appraisal	5,000	3,500
Media/community awareness strategy	4,500	
Total Project Planning	\$86,000	\$75,000

How Do You Green a Neighborhood in Need? Frogtown Farm and Park

It is a unique and possibly fleeting opportunity: to acquire long-term access to beautiful, unused open space in a neighborhood hungry for recreational opportunities. This community-generated proposal for a new park, nature preserve and urban demonstration farm needs funds to develop a detailed plan that can be implemented with public and private support.

The park, referred to as “Frogtown Farm,” will be located a 13-acre parcel of vacant land recently listed for sale. We seek CIB funds for environmental assessments and other due diligence, developing legal agreements among stakeholders, creating a phased conceptual design and overall project coordination.

Financial support from the CIB would also enable coordination with other city efforts, such as Saint Paul Parks and Recreation’s Vision Plan, Promise Neighborhood planning and Central Corridor development.



Why is Frogtown Farm Important?

- Frogtown Farm will address the demand for more recreation opportunities, in a neighborhood where green open space is in short supply.
- will stabilize 13 acres of beautiful land, protecting the watershed, preventing erosion and preserving mature trees and other habitat.
- will provide a venue for residents interested in urban agriculture, community gardening and healthy living.
- will draw on farming and gardening experience from multiple cultures and generations.
- will create a new public asset from a private property that has been vacant for more than 5 years.



How Will Frogtown Farm Improve Neighborhood Safety?

- Frogtown Farm will decrease the secluded site’s potential to attract criminal activity such as prostitution and drug-dealing.
- will offer informal oversight of an area where neighborhood children currently play unsupervised.
- will discourage dumping garbage, construction debris and hazardous substances in the area.
- will reduce the likelihood of homicide or other violent crime recurring on the site.



Who Supports Frogtown Farm?

- **Community members:** Two open meetings about Frogtown Farm attracted more than 300 attendees, and a core group of collaborators have been active on the project for nearly two years.
- **Leaders.** Frogtown Farm has letters of support from more than a dozen community leaders and elected officials, including U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, District 65 Sen. Sandy Pappas, Ward 1 Councilmember Melvin Carter III, the District 7 Planning Council, the Hmong American Partnership and the University of Minnesota Extension Service Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center.
- **Funders.** Interest in Frogtown Farm has already generated hundreds of dollars of outside funding.
- **City planners:** The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department’s System Plan identifies an area including Frogtown Farm as a “new park search area.” A recommended trail corridor shown in the Parks and Rec Vision Plan is adjacent to the site.



Who Will Benefit from Frogtown Farm?



- **Children:** Frogtown kids have less green space to play in than those in any other Saint Paul neighborhood. A new park would offer a natural play area with woodland exploration and winter sledding opportunities.
- **Ward 1 Property owners and residents:** Research by the Amherst Wilder Foundation and others demonstrates economic value of green space, which could eventually decrease vacant housing in Frogtown.
- **Saint Paul residents:** Frogtown Farm and associated parkland will offer attractions such as walking and biking trails, bird watching, native plantings and public art, as well as urban farm demonstration efforts.
- **City leaders:** Frogtown Farm will enhance “greening” plans for Victoria Street and the light rail station at University and Victoria.

